

§ 68a.3

standard student budget for educational and living expenses for the degree program and for the year(s) during which the participant was enrolled in school. If there is no standard budget available from the school or if the participant requests repayment for educational and living expenses which exceed the standard student budget, reasonableness of educational and living expenses incurred must be substantiated by additional contemporaneous documentation, as determined by the Secretary.

Repayable debt means the portion, as established by the Secretary, of an individual's total qualified educational debt relative to the NIH salary, which can be paid by the CR-LRP. Specifically, qualifying educational debt amounts in excess of 50 percent of the debt threshold will be considered for repayment.

Salary means base pay plus quarters, subsistence, and variable housing allowances, if applicable.

School means undergraduate, graduate, and health professions schools which are accredited by a body or bodies recognized for accreditation purposes by the Secretary of Education.

Secretary means the Secretary of Health and Human Services and any other officer or employee of the Department of Health and Human Services to whom the authority involved has been delegated.

Service means the Public Health Service.

State means one of the fifty States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Northern Mariana Islands, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau).

Withdrawal means a request by a participant, prior to the Program making payments on his or her behalf, for withdrawal from Program participation. A withdrawal is without penalty to the participant and without obligation to the Program.

§ 68a.3 Who is eligible to apply?

To be eligible to apply to the CR-LRP, an individual must be a citizen,

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national, or permanent resident of the United States; hold a M.D., Ph.D., D.O., D.D.S., D.M.D., A.D.N./B.S.N., or equivalent degree; have, on his/her program eligibility date, qualified educational debt equal to or in excess of the debt threshold; and be an individual from a disadvantaged background.

§ 68a.4 Who is eligible to participate?

To be eligible to participate in the CR-LRP, an applicant must have the recommendation of the employing ICA Scientific Program Director, the concurrence of the employing ICA Director, and the approval of the CR-LRC. Since participation in the Program is contingent, in part, upon employment with NIH, a Program contract may not be awarded to an applicant until an employment commitment has been made by the employing ICA Personnel Department.

§ 68a.5 Who is ineligible to participate?

The following individuals are ineligible for CR-LRP participation:

(a) Persons who are not eligible applicants as specified under section 68a.3;

(b) Persons who owe an obligation of health professional service to the Federal Government, a State, or other entity, unless a deferral is granted for the length of his/her service obligation under the CR-LRP. The following are examples of programs which have a service obligation: Physicians Shortage Area Scholarship Program, National Research Service Award Program, Public Health Service Scholarship, National Health Service Corps Scholarship Program, Armed Forces (Army, Navy, or Air Force) Professions Scholarship Program, Indian Health Service Scholarship Program, and the NIH AIDS Research Loan Repayment Program.

(c) Persons who are not NIH employees, such as Intramural Research Training Award (IRTA) recipients, Visiting Fellows, National Research Service Award (NRSA) recipients, Guest Researchers or Special Volunteers, NIH-National Research Council (NRC) Biotechnology Research Associates Program participants, and Intergovernmental Personnel Act (IPA) participants; or